



Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the third submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), in which the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolution by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The report covers the period from 22 April to 19 May 2014. The information contained in the report is based on the data available to the United Nations actors on the ground and reports from open sources and sources of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

II. Major developments

A. Political/military

3. Violence continued unabated across the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, including but not limited to Aleppo, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Dar'a governorates. Indiscriminate aerial strikes and shelling by government forces resulted in deaths, injuries and large-scale displacement of civilians, while armed opposition groups also continued indiscriminate shelling and the use of car bombs in populated civilian areas.

4. In Aleppo, indiscriminate air strikes by government forces continued in the city and surrounding countryside. Reports indicate that hundreds of people, including civilians, have been killed or injured and tens of thousands have continued to flee the city. Human Rights Watch, which conducted an analysis of satellite imagery from late April to early May, concluded that over 140 major damage sites were strongly consistent with the impact of air strikes. They refer specifically to the continued indiscriminate use of barrel bombs targeting predominately residential buildings and neighbourhoods in opposition-controlled areas. Data on 50 impact sites collected between 26 April and 7 May indicate that the Government had significantly increased its bombardment over the preceding weeks.



5. Also according to Human Rights Watch, during the reporting period, opposition forces have detonated at least three and possibly four large tunnel bombs underneath government military positions in the centre of Aleppo city. These tunnel bombs have destroyed dozens of buildings, leaving blast craters upwards of 50 metres in diameter. On 8 May, the Islamic Front announced that it was responsible for a tunnel bomb detonated under the historic Carlton Hotel, which had been used as a base by Syrian government forces. Tunnel bombs can be indiscriminate in their impact across large areas.

6. The city of Aleppo experienced significant cuts in its water supply from 5 to 13 May. The city's main pumping station was deliberately shut down by opposition groups surrounding the city, leaving at least 2.5 million people in the city without access to water for drinking or sanitation. The water supply was restored to Aleppo city on 13 May, following negotiations between the Sharia Committee and the Division of Public Services (affiliated with opposition groups) in eastern Aleppo.

7. Over the reporting period, clashes between Jabhat al-Nusra, Free Syrian Army groups and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham (ISIS) led to the displacement of at least 115,000 people in Deir-ez-Zor and Dar'a governorates. Displacement occurred following clashes for control of gas and oil resources around the Koniko gas station in Deir-ez-Zor governorate and after Jabhat al-Nusra gained control of Kerba village in Dar'a governorate.

8. Intensified clashes were reported in Damascus, particularly in the Jobar neighbourhood of the city, which resulted in the displacement of the remaining residents. The neighbourhood is now almost deserted. Clashes were also reported in several locations in eastern Ghouta (Rural Damascus), such as Douma, Mileha and Harasta.

9. While the United Nations remains unable to provide a verified assessment of the presence and activity of non-Syrian fighters on a nationwide scale, non-Syrian fighters continue to support both opposition groups and government forces in the Syrian Arab Republic. Messages designed to recruit non-Syrian fighters continue to circulate on various social networking sites. On 8 May, the ministers of the interior or home affairs of France, Germany, Jordan, Morocco, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America met in Brussels to discuss the issue and measures to improve cooperation among their countries to prevent the travel of their nationals to the Syrian Arab Republic to join the fighting.

B. Human rights

10. Children continue to bear the brunt of the impact of the conflict. Three major incidents occurred on 29 April: mortar shells in the Damascus suburb of Al-Shaghour killed 14 children and injured 81 others at the Badr al-Din al-Hussein technical institute; a mortar attack in the Adra area of Rural Damascus reportedly killed three children at a shelter for internally displaced families; and the explosion of a car bomb in a busy part of the city of Homs reportedly caused the deaths of at least 100 people, including many women and children. More than 100 people were also injured. An air strike that hit Ain Jalout School in the Al-Ansari neighbourhood of eastern Aleppo city on 30 April is reported to have killed 30 children and injured dozens during a students' art exhibition. On 3 May, three mortars landed on the

Faculty of Economy and Trading, University of Aleppo, reportedly killing 12 students and injuring 16 others.

11. Reports of the recruitment and use of children in hostilities, child labour and the detention of children continue to be received through different credible sources. The presence of young people during the recent negotiated withdrawal of opposition fighters from the old city of Homs was also observed, confirming earlier, documented patterns of recruitment and use of children in hostilities.

12. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has received reports of several incidents of alleged use of toxic gas, including during the reporting period. Targeted areas include Telmans in Idlib governorate and Kafr Zita in Hama governorate. Suffocation as a result of the attacks was reported to have caused dozens of deaths and injuries. These allegations have not been confirmed. On 29 April, the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) announced the creation of an OPCW mission to establish the facts surrounding allegations of the use of chlorine in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Government has agreed to the mission.

13. Humanitarian conditions inside Aleppo Central Prison further deteriorated. The standoff between government forces inside the prison and Jabhat al-Nusra and Ahrar al-Sham, which have surrounded the prison since mid-2013, continued to adversely affect the lives of hundreds of prisoners and detainees, including an estimated 100 minors. During the reporting period, at least two prisoners died in the prison. Lack of medical treatment resulting from the siege and the ongoing fighting in the vicinity led to the death of a female prisoner on 4 May, owing to untreated tuberculosis. On 6 May, a male prisoner was killed when a guard opened fire on a group of prisoners. The body of this prisoner remained in a cell for two days, before being removed on 8 May. During the reporting period, OHCHR received an analysis of satellite imagery purporting to show the existence of a burial site in the prison complex where hundreds of prisoners have reportedly been buried since 2011. The causes of death reportedly include lack of medical attention for injuries and untreated diseases, some of which are caused by unhygienic prison conditions; starvation; being caught in the middle of fighting between the parties to the conflict; and the shooting of prisoners by guards in retaliation for opposition attacks against the prison.

14. On 30 April, the families of at least eight Palestinian refugees from Yarmouk camp were informed of the deaths of their relatives while in the custody of different Syrian branches of the security services in Damascus. According to information collected by OHCHR, all of the victims were arrested in 2014 and were in good health at the time of their arrest, including two brothers who were arrested on 28 April, two days before they died. Some families have already received the bodies of their relatives and OHCHR has received information alleging that these detainees died as a result of torture.

15. Reports received by OHCHR advised that in Ar Raqqa, on 29 April, ISIS fighters executed seven individuals, apparently in relation to their alleged participation in an attack on ISIS. Images of the bodies of two of the men attached to lampposts were widely circulated on the Internet.

16. Members of the independent international commission of inquiry on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, OHCHR and United Nations

human rights personnel, including special procedures mandate holders, continue to be denied access to the Syrian Arab Republic. On 13 May, OHCHR addressed a note verbale to the Syrian Government, requesting access to the country, in particular to detention sites where torture allegedly had occurred.

C. Humanitarian access

17. Approximately 9.3 million people, more than 6.5 million of them internally displaced, continue to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance within the Syrian Arab Republic. It is estimated that 3.5 million people reside in areas that are difficult or impossible for humanitarian actors to reach. This number includes at least 241,000 people who live in areas besieged by either government or opposition forces. Figures for the number of people in need of assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic will be revised at mid-year to reflect developments on the ground.

18. Access to both government-controlled and opposition-controlled areas has dropped significantly since the previous reporting period. The implementation, on 5 May, of a new transport facilitation mechanism put in place by the Government has been a major factor in this reduction in access. The procedure requires the sealing of trucks carrying humanitarian supplies and is intended to facilitate passage at checkpoints. The lack of understanding of the new procedure by security officials at checkpoints has resulted in delays. Government security officials at checkpoints are stopping convoys which do not have additional facilitation letters. In addition, convoys cannot be loaded because there are insufficient dedicated security personnel in the warehouses in which the trucks are being sealed. The United Nations continues to request clarity and consistent implementation of the new procedure from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

19. Food deliveries for the May 2014 dispatch cycle have slowed considerably. As at 12 May, the World Food Programme (WFP) had only been able to dispatch food rations to assist 942,000 people in 10 of the 14 Syrian governorates, reaching 22 per cent of the planned 4.25 million across the Syrian Arab Republic in comparison to 47 per cent achieved at the same time in April. During the reporting period, assistance reached 33 locations, or 12.6 per cent, of the 262 locations identified as being hard to reach or besieged. This included the food and nutrition assistance provided by WFP, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to almost 150,000 people (4.3 per cent of 3.5 million), and non-food items provided to 52,702 people. Of the 3.5 million people in hard-to-reach areas, 2.3 million (64 per cent) received safe water from UNICEF through the provision of sodium hypochlorite, generators and water tanks. WFP reported a sharp decrease in the number of people reached in hard-to-reach areas, from the 302,250 people reached in the previous reporting period to 98,500.

20. Despite these challenges, limited assistance, given the scale of need, continued to be delivered across the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition to WFP food delivery for 942,000 people, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided non-food items to 218,694 people in need. UNICEF delivered 50 metric tons of sodium hypochlorite to the Department of Water Resources in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, and 20 metric tons to the department in Al Raqqah governorate for the treatment of potable water. It is estimated that

1.3 million people living in opposition-controlled areas will benefit from a supply of safe drinking water as a result of this intervention. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided support for mobile clinics and medical points in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar Raqqa and Hama and provided lifesaving reproductive health services to more than 21,500 women. UNFPA also provided medicines and other supplies to 300 primary health-care centres and three referral hospitals of the Ministry of Health, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Syrian Family Planning Association. UNICEF, in partnership with the Directorate of Education and local non-governmental organizations, distributed educational supplies for more than 54,000 students in Al-Hasakeh and Idlib governorates. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided agricultural assistance to over 58,000 people in Idlib, Aleppo and Rural Damascus.

Besieged areas

21. Approximately 241,000 people remain besieged — 196,000 in areas besieged by government forces in Madamiyet Elsham, eastern Ghouta, Darayya and Yarmouk, and 45,000 in areas besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra. During the reporting period, the siege of the old city of Homs ended.

22. During the reporting period, assistance reached the three besieged communities of Nubul, Zahra and Yarmouk. Food assistance was delivered to 16,576 people, or 6.9 per cent of the 241,000 people in besieged areas (to 9,000 in Nubul and Zahra by WFP, and to 7,576 in Yarmouk by UNRWA); non-food items were delivered to 5,000, or 2.1 per cent, of the besieged. Water and sanitation items were distributed to cover the needs of 10,000 people, or 4.1 per cent. Medicines, including those for chronic diseases, were provided to cover the needs of more than 15,000 people, or over 6 per cent.

23. **Eastern Ghouta.** Some 150,000 people remain besieged in eastern Ghouta. A note verbale was addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16 April, requesting the deployment of an inter-agency mission with assistance for up to 5,000 people, and medicines for up to 50,000. Clearance from the Ministry was received on 24 April. However, as no agreement was reached on the inclusion of medical supplies, the convoy did not proceed. On 13 May, another note verbale was sent, requesting approval for the travel of an inter-agency convoy to Douma. During the Joint United Nations/Government Committee meeting held on 15 May, the Government verbally informed the United Nations that the convoy would be authorized. Written authorization is awaited. Eastern Ghouta was last reached with humanitarian assistance on 29 March 2014.

24. **Madamiyet Elsham.** Some 20,000 people remain besieged in Madamiyet Elsham. Three inter-agency convoy requests were made during the reporting period to deliver multi-sectoral assistance for up to 5,000 people, and medicines for up to 37,000 people. All three requests to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs remain unanswered. Madamiyet Elsham has not been reached with assistance since October 2012, except for polio vaccinations.

25. **Yarmouk.** Some 18,000 people remain besieged in Yarmouk. UNRWA was permitted to conduct distributions on 17 days and delivered 5,682 food parcels, enough for 7,576 people for one month. However, UNRWA was prevented from conducting distributions on eight days during the reporting period.

26. **Darayya.** Approximately 8,000 people remain besieged in Darayya, Rural Damascus, with no access to assistance during the reporting period. Daily shelling and the use of barrel bombs have been reported, causing extensive damage and destruction. Darayya was last assisted in October 2012.

27. **Old city of Homs.** During the reporting period, a ceasefire led to the evacuation of fighters and a small number of civilians from the old city of Homs, as part of an agreement negotiated by the parties. Under the agreement, fighters were allowed to leave the old city with some small weapons and were transferred by bus to Al-Dar al-Kabira (an opposition-controlled area of rural Homs governorate). The safe departure of the fighters was conditional upon the release of 70 government-affiliated individuals held by the opposition in Aleppo and the coastal region. Approximately 2,300 people exited the old city on 7, 8 and 9 May. Of these, around 40 people were identifiable as civilians (women, children, elderly). Twenty-three Christians chose to remain in the old city. A total of 15 wounded people were transported by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent ambulance, 14 of them to Al-Dar al-Kabira and one to Ar Razzi Hospital in Homs.

28. Since the siege of the old city of Homs ended, large numbers of people have returned to visit the area daily. Large-scale structural damage, a lack of water and power supplies, risks of unexploded ordnance and health risks from open sewage prevent a sustainable return in the short term. At least 50 per cent of the neighbourhoods in the old city are now destroyed or damaged. The Governor has declared the intention of the authorities to restore essential services.

29. **Nubul and Zahra.** Around 45,000 people remain besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra. On 9 May, a joint United Nations and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy delivered humanitarian assistance to the two towns, including food for 9,000 people, medicines for 15,000 and non-food items. On the way to Nubul and Zahra, assistance for 3,000 was also delivered through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to the four opposition-held villages of Kfar Hamra, Maaret Elartiq, Hariten and Hayyan. It was originally agreed that 70 per cent of the assistance would go to Nubul and Zahra and the remaining 30 per cent to the other villages. However, this was subsequently renegotiated by the two sides to a 60:40 ratio. The United Nations expressed its concerns on 6 May to the Director of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Aleppo and the Governor of Aleppo that the agreement between the Government and the opposition to allocate humanitarian assistance was based on arbitrary criteria. The United Nations emphasized to the Governor of Aleppo and to the opposition groups that there should be no conditionality in relation to humanitarian assistance.

Cross-border assistance

30. During the reporting period, the Syrian and Turkish Governments approved a second shipment of humanitarian supplies through the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing. A total of 36 WFP trucks transporting 11,471 food rations arrived in Qamishli on 15 May.

31. In March, the United Nations sought the consent of the Syrian Government to use additional border crossings identified as vital for reaching over 1 million people in what have proved to be impossible-to-reach areas. To date, the Government has refused to agree to the use of these crossing points, restating its long-standing policy of refusing to use international crossing points not under its control, irrespective of

the humanitarian imperative. The key border crossings required to scale up humanitarian operations are Bab al-Salameh and Bab al-Hawa on the border with Turkey, controlled by the Islamic Front; Al Yaroubiyah crossing point with Iraq, controlled by the Democratic Union Party; and Tal Shihab crossing point with Jordan, controlled by the Free Syrian Army.

32. Since January 2014, international non-governmental organizations and Syrian partners report the delivery of assistance to 65 of the 262 hard-to-reach locations, comprising 25 per cent of those identified by the United Nations as priority areas for access where urgent needs should be addressed. Turkish non-governmental organizations have also been providing much-needed assistance, especially in the northern part of the Syrian Arab Republic. However, insecurity, fighting, threats to aid workers and attacks on humanitarian convoys, in addition to administrative requirements in neighbouring countries and inadequate levels of funding, are among the obstacles hampering humanitarian access by international non-governmental organizations to people in need.

Free passage of medical supplies, personnel and equipment

33. Prevention of delivery of essential medical supplies and equipment, particularly to opposition-controlled areas, continues to lead to civilian loss of life and lack of access to lifesaving medical assistance. Only medicines for non-communicable diseases, analgesic tablets and antibiotic pills are generally allowed into opposition areas. All injectable medicines, antiseptics, serums, psychotropic medicines and surgical items, or any item that may be used for surgical interventions (including bandages and gloves) are routinely denied inclusion in convoys. During the reporting period, 89,652 people were deprived of medical assistance as a result of lack of approval or removal of medical items from inter-agency convoys to hard-to-reach locations. However, thousands more were also deprived of all types of assistance in areas not considered hard to reach.

34. On 4 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) delivered a shipment of 40 metric tons of lifesaving and chronic disease medicines, and surgical equipment for 117,000 people, to Ar Raqqa city to support the local health authorities and non-governmental organizations, including the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. WHO was also able to deliver some medical supplies to the two hard-to-reach areas of Talbiseh and Mashraf, in Homs.

35. The sixth countrywide vaccination campaign for polio took place from 4 to 8 May 2014, targeting 2.8 million children. The numbers of children reached are expected to be available in the third week of May.

36. On 14 May, the non-governmental organization Physicians for Human Rights reported that systematic attacks on the health-care system in the Syrian Arab Republic over the past three years had resulted in the deaths of 460 health professionals and the widespread destruction of hospitals and clinics, particularly in Rural Damascus and Aleppo governorates. The organization confirmed 150 attacks on 124 facilities between March 2011 and March 2014. Government forces committed 90 per cent of the attacks, 7 per cent were committed by opposition groups and 3 per cent could not be attributed. Of the 10 confirmed attacks by opposition groups, 9 took place in the past year. Physicians for Human Rights data also indicate that 20 hospitals were hit repeatedly, 3 of them until they were

completely destroyed or forced to close. Since January 2014, at least 14 attacks on medical facilities have taken place and 36 medical workers have been killed.

Administrative procedures

37. The implementation of the new procedure for the clearance of trucks has slowed down the delivery of humanitarian assistance. By 13 May, at least 150 trucks were held up at locations throughout the country, in particular at the entrance to Damascus, with facilitation letters in addition to the ones already required being demanded by security personnel at checkpoints.

38. The revised visa policy established by the Syrian Government on 4 March continued to be implemented. From 22 April to 15 May, the United Nations submitted 38 new requests for visas or visa renewals. Of these, 11 were approved within the agreed time frame of 15 working days, while 27 remain pending. In addition, 21 new requests submitted prior to the reporting period remain pending, including one from the Department of Safety and Security. No progress has been made in obtaining visas for international non-governmental organizations, with 13 visa requests still pending.

39. During the reporting period, approval was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for three additional national non-governmental organizations to work with United Nations agencies in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh and Damascus governorates. On 15 May, one national non-governmental organization operating in Ar Raqqa governorate was officially dissolved by the Government. Several United Nations agencies relied on this organization to deliver assistance to hard-to-reach areas, including food, non-food items and vaccinations. International non-governmental organizations are still not authorized to work with national non-governmental organizations and their standard memorandum of understanding with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent continues to contain many restrictive clauses.

40. International non-governmental organizations are still unable to conduct independent (or joint) needs assessments and monitoring of the impact of their work in government-controlled areas. Where needs assessments have been conducted by international non-governmental organizations, they have been limited or based on unverifiable sources, and it remains impossible for such organizations to access communities openly and directly.

Safety and security of staff and premises

41. Security conditions deteriorated in Damascus during the reporting period. On 6 May, an estimated 20 mortars landed in Damascus city, including several in the area immediately surrounding the location where many international United Nations staff reside. Armed opposition groups claimed responsibility for the targeting of a Parliament building in the area.

42. A total of 26 United Nations national staff members remain detained (24 employed by UNRWA and 2 employed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)). Two UNRWA national staff members are missing.

43. A national staff member of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and an OPCW and United Nations contractor sustained non-life-threatening injuries when a mortar landed in a residential area in Al-Shalaan district, Damascus, on

6 May. On 15 May, an anti-aircraft round hit the UNRWA Area Office in Aleppo and fell in front of the main gate. No injuries were reported.

44. There is increasing concern for Syrian aid workers in areas such as Aleppo, Homs and Damascus governorates, where they are threatened and face arrest by the parties for delivering assistance. International non-governmental organizations have received unconfirmed reports of humanitarian aid workers, including doctors, being arbitrarily arrested while delivering aid.

Observations

45. There has been no reduction in the appalling patterns of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses, as documented in my previous reports. Disrespect for human life and dignity remains a defining feature of the Syrian conflict and is at the root of the continued killing, the enforced disappearances, the torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, the instances of arbitrary arrest and detention, the kidnappings, and the sexual and gender-based violence.

46. I am shocked by the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons in populated areas, where children in particular continue to be at the forefront of the casualties. Barrel bombs, mortars and car bombs have killed and maimed thousands over the past weeks. I remind parties to the conflict that the deliberate targeting of civilians is a war crime. I am also gravely concerned for the well-being of the 2.5 million people in Aleppo city following the intentional disruption of water supplies by a few armed opposition groups, including Jabhat al Nusra, Al-Tawheed Brigade, Ahrar al-Sham Islamic Movement, Al-Sham Brigade and some other smaller groups, although water supply has now gradually resumed in the city. To deprive an entire city of a lifeline as crucial to survival as water amounts to collective punishment and is a flagrant violation of the most basic precepts of international humanitarian law.

47. Once again, I appeal to Governments in the region and beyond to stop the flow of arms and fighters to all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is having a hugely destabilizing impact on the region and beyond. Governments with influence need to do everything they can to stop those from outside the Syrian Arab Republic entering the country, regardless of whether they are invited or not, and taking up arms, as well as to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring financial resources, weapons and other supplies.

48. Humanitarian agencies in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to do their best to reach the millions of men, women and children in need of lifesaving assistance throughout the country, despite major obstacles. This assistance is being delivered at great personal risk as needs continue to grow in government, opposition and contested areas.

49. In my previous report to the Security Council (S/2014/295), I described as "shameful" the fact that people were being deliberately forced to live under the inhumane and illegal conditions of siege warfare. Thirty days later, for approximately 241,000 people, this situation remains unchanged. For over 3.5 million others, access to humanitarian assistance continues to be unpredictable and woefully inadequate. Despite the adoption of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the situation on the ground has become worse, not better. Parties to the

conflict, particularly the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, continue to deny access for humanitarian assistance in a completely arbitrary and unjustifiable manner. I remind the Council that intentionally using starvation as a weapon of war is a gross violation of international humanitarian law.

50. The next two weeks are critical in terms of ascertaining whether there is scope for progress in terms of widening access. It is essential that the significant problems with the new procedures for the sealing of trucks be immediately resolved without bureaucratic foot-dragging.

51. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is failing in its responsibility to look after its own people. It is failing in that responsibility through its refusal to give consent to humanitarian organizations to use all means at their disposal, including the use of border crossings operated by opposition groups, to deliver urgently needed lifesaving humanitarian assistance which, by its nature, lies outside the political and military dimensions of the conflict. Arbitrarily withholding consent for the opening of all relevant border crossings is a violation of international humanitarian law, and an act of non-compliance with resolution 2139 (2014). Meeting the demand of the Security Council that all relevant border crossings be immediately opened for the passage of lifesaving assistance is not an abdication of sovereignty. On the contrary, it is an affirmation of the sovereign responsibility of the Government to ensure that its citizens do not suffer in such a tragic and unnecessary way.

52. The United Nations has submitted a list of border crossings which must be opened according to the obligations imposed by resolution 2139 (2014). It is ready to put in place arrangements at key border and line crossings to facilitate, improve and monitor access. These arrangements could include a mechanism to ensure that, even with those border crossings that are currently outside the Government's effective control, cross-border operations are conducted in a transparent way. The United Nations will do all it can to facilitate and enable the provision of assistance by humanitarian organizations across borders in accordance with resolution 2139 (2014).

53. The Security Council, in resolution 2139 (2014), demands that relevant border crossings be opened. It demands that sieges be immediately lifted. It demands that schools and hospitals be respected and protected from attack. It demands that medical personnel and supplies be immediately allowed to reach all those in need. I deeply regret to inform the Council that the parties to the conflict are not heeding these demands. Despite the clearly expressed will of the Council and the best efforts of humanitarian actors, resolution 2139 (2014) has yet to make a meaningful difference to the lives of the millions of people in need in the Syrian Arab Republic. Therefore, I call on the Council urgently to consider what steps it will now take to secure compliance with its demands.

54. Council members are aware that, following consultations with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Nabil El Araby, I have accepted with deep regret the request of Lakhdar Brahimi to relinquish his duties as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, effective 31 May 2014. For two years Mr. Brahimi has worked tirelessly to bring an end to the brutal civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic. I deeply appreciate the tenacity he has shown and his commitment to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic. While I regret that the parties, and particularly the Government, have thus far failed to take

advantage of the opportunities offered to end the country's misery. I remain unwavering in my conviction that a genuine political transition is the only way to end the violence and pull the Syrian Arab Republic back from the brink. The Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 established important and valuable principles agreed upon by all participants at the Geneva Conference on the Syrian Arab Republic, and endorsed by the Security Council. The United Nations remains committed to the principles outlined in the Geneva communiqué and to continuing to seek a political resolution to the crisis.

Annex

1. Protection of civilians^a

Examples of attacks on civilian facilities (schools, hospitals, camps, places of worship)

- Between 1 January 2013 and 31 March 2014, the United Nations documented 60 incidents of attacks on schools, 51 allegedly perpetrated by government forces and 7 by the Free Syrian Army. The perpetrators of the remaining two incidents are unknown. During the same period, 16 cases of militarization of schools were documented: 4 attributable to government forces and 12 to various armed opposition groups (Free Syrian Army, 7; Al-Nusra Front, 2; and People's Protection Units, 3). As a result of increasing insecurity in the affected areas, an estimated 3,600 students had to suspend their education.
- The United Nations is unable to provide a verified assessment of how many of the above-mentioned schools are still, at the time of reporting, being used for military purposes. In most of the cases documented, school facilities were used as military bases, as depositories for weapons or as military residences/offices. In the same period three incidents of attacks on educational personnel were documented, two attributable to government forces and one to ISIS. All incidents involved the arrest and subsequent detention of teachers.

Attacks on schools during the reporting period

- On 3 May 2014, three mortars landed on the Faculty of Economy and Trading, University of Aleppo, killing 12 students and injuring 16 others.
- On 30 April, an air raid on Ain Jalout School, eastern Aleppo city, resulted in at least 30 people killed, mostly women and children, all of whom were preparing to participate in a children's art exhibition which had been publicly announced. In addition, the school was partially destroyed.
- On 29 April, two shells hit the Badr al-Din al-Hussein educational institute in the old city of Damascus in Al-Shaghour neighbourhood. The attack killed at least 14 people (12 of them children) and injured 81 more (UNICEF statement issued on 30 April).
- On 29 April, a private educational facility serving both Syrians and Palestine refugees in the Adra area of Rural Damascus was struck by a high-calibre mortar, resulting in the deaths of four Palestine refugee children and the injury of least 20 other Palestine refugee and Syrian civilians (UNICEF statement issued on 30 April).
- On 22 April, a Palestine refugee child was killed by shrapnel from an explosion in Dar'a city as he walked home from school with friends and family.

^a The United Nations has a distinct and regular mechanism of reporting on the six grave violations against children in armed conflict that has set verification standards and periodicity of reporting to identify trends.

- On 22 April, three mortar attacks on the area surrounding Dar al-Salam School and the Salhiyeh quarter of Damascus left two civilians dead and 36 others injured.

Large-scale impact of conflict on public services

- As a consequence of the conflict, 4,072 schools were closed, damaged or used as shelter.
- Of 91 public hospitals, approximately 5 per cent (5) are fully damaged (i.e., the structure is fully damaged)^b and 23 per cent (21) are partially damaged. Thirteen per cent of public hospitals are reported to be non-functioning. A total of 31 functioning hospitals across governorates are operating without emergency physicians, and the management of severe acute malnutrition with complications is only available in 30 per cent of the facilities.^b
- Fifty per cent of health workers have left the country with the figures higher for surgeons.
- An estimated 20 hospitals remain occupied.
- Sixty-two per cent of the public ambulance fleet is out of service (407 vehicles out of 658), with over one half stolen, burned or badly damaged.
- Local production of medicines has been reduced by 90 per cent compared to pre-crisis levels.

2. Safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need

Hard-to-reach areas

- It is estimated that there are 3.5 million people in need in hard-to-reach areas.
- During the reporting period, WFP reached 98,500 people in hard-to-reach locations, 81 per cent of them in areas not controlled by the Government. This compares with 302,250 people reached in such areas during the previous reporting period.
- Food assistance was provided to 149,726 people (to 98,500 by WFP, 28,576 by UNRWA and 22,650 by UNICEF).
- UNRWA distributed food assistance to 28,576 people in hard-to-reach areas (to 20,000 in Neirab, 7,576 in Yarmouk and 1,000 in Ramadan).
- From 22 April to 11 May, UNHCR provided 28,500 people with non-food items, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided non-food items to 3,702 people, UNICEF to 19,500 people and UNRWA to 1,000 people in hard-to-reach areas.

Inter-agency convoys and missions

- Four inter-agency convoys were dispatched during the reporting period.
- On 24 April, one convoy to two destinations:

^b Health Resources Availability Mapping System (HeRAMS) report for the fourth quarter of 2013.

- Convoy to seven villages in Talbiseh (Homs governorate, under opposition control) carrying food for 37,500 people, non-food items for 2,680 people, including children, and medical supplies for 22,765 people, all residing in the Talbiseh area in rural Homs.
- Convoy to four villages in Mashraf (Homs governorate, government-controlled, convoy unaccompanied) carrying food for 10,000 people, non-food items for 1,160 people including children, and medical supplies for 11,000 people, all residing in rural Homs.

All injectable antibiotics were removed, despite the Governor's approval. Povidone iodine and chlorhexidine (both antiseptics) were also removed in the deliveries to both opposition and government-held areas.

- On 27 April, one convoy to Alfoa'a and Kfrya villages (Idlib governorate, government-controlled, convoy unaccompanied owing to security restrictions) which carried food, non-food items and medical supplies to assist 2,000 families (10,000 people) residing in Al Foa'a (1,200 families) and Kfrya (800 families); and to Binnish (Idlib governorate, opposition-controlled, unaccompanied convoy), carrying food, non-food items and medical supplies to assist 1,000 families (5,000 people).
- On 8 May, one convoy to Kfar Hamra, Maaret Elartiq, Hariten and Hayyan (rural Aleppo, all opposition-controlled) which carried food, flour, nutritional supplements and hygiene kits for 2,000 people (500 beneficiaries per village). Taking part in the inter-agency convoy were UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, UNFPA, WHO, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Safety and Security. Two further trucks (each carrying supplies for 100 families) were destined for the opposition-controlled villages of Anadan and Mayer. The convoy took place after two failed attempts.
- On 9 May, one convoy to Nubul and Zahra (rural Aleppo, besieged by opposition groups, convoy accompanied) which carried, for both locations, food for 9,000 people, medicines for up to 15,000 and non-food items for 5,000 people. Taking part in the inter-agency convoy were UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, UNFPA, WHO, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Safety and Security.
- No response was received to the request for a convoy to Madamiyet Elsham, submitted on 28 April for a departure between 28 April and 1 May. In addition, no response was received to a request for a convoy to Madamiyet Elsham, Rural Damascus, scheduled for 14 and 15 May. As a result, the convoys could not proceed.
- During a joint committee meeting on 15 May, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cleared convoys to Adra'a al-Balad and Adra al-Omaliyeh. It was agreed that a technical meeting would be held to finalize the implementation modality. The convoys are now planned for 22 May. The convoys were originally planned to depart between 6 and 8 May, targeting 3,000 people in both locations.
- One convoy for Douma, eastern Ghouta, is planned for 21 May pending the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- On 15 May, the United Nations hub in Homs sent a reminder letter to the Governor of Hama, as the request for a joint United Nations convoy to western rural Hama submitted on 22 April remains pending.
- A series of inter-agency missions led by the United Nations hub in Qamishli has taken place in Al-Hasakeh governorate, notably to Al-Qahtaniyah and Jawadieh districts on 5 May, and to Amouda and Derbassiyeh on 10 May. The main purpose of the missions was to monitor the ongoing distribution of assistance, to conduct needs assessments and to strengthen relations with local counterparts. On 15 May, the team undertook a mission to Al-Yaroubiyeh, the results of which are being compiled.

Besieged areas

- 241,000 people remain besieged (1,000 decrease following the end of the siege on the old city of Homs).
- Food assistance was delivered to 16,576 people, or 6.9 per cent of those in besieged areas (to 9,000 people in Nubul and Zahra by WFP, and to 7,576 people in Yarmouk by UNRWA); non-food items were delivered to 5,000, or 2.1 per cent of the people in need; and medicines for 15,000, or 6.2 per cent of those in need, were delivered to Nubul and Zahra.
- UNRWA was permitted to conduct distributions on 17 days and was prevented from delivering on 7 days, delivering 5,682 food parcels in total. As each food parcel is sufficient for four people for 10 days such distributions can feed 7,576 people for one month.

Cross-border assistance

From Turkey

- WFP transported 36 truckloads of food and non-food items from Turkey to the Syrian Arab Republic through the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing from 14 to 16 May. The delivery included 11,471 food parcels. This is the second time the United Nations has transported relief items from Turkey to the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2014, when an inter-agency convoy with 78 truckloads of food, medical supplies and non-food items crossed the border. An additional request from UNHCR remains pending. The United Nations has requested the use of two additional border crossings with Turkey for the import of relief items. According to the Turkish Red Crescent, other humanitarian actors have channelled around \$23 million worth of humanitarian assistance (including \$17.6 million in April) on average per month from Turkey to the Syrian Arab Republic through the zero point delivery system administered by the Turkish Red Crescent (excluding commercial or other channels).

From Jordan

- The Al Naseeb border crossing between Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic remained open for the transportation of relief items, although insecurity continues to prevent direct cross-line deliveries of relief from As-Suweida to Dar'a governorate. In 2014, this has included, for example, 321 trucks containing core relief items for UNHCR (with 31 of 34 requests approved,

while 3 remain pending). The United Nations has requested the use of one additional border crossing with Jordan to facilitate access to Dar'a governorate.

- It is estimated that other humanitarian actors transport assistance worth on average over \$2 million from Jordan to the Syrian Arab Republic (not counting commercial and other channels).

From Lebanon

- The Masna and Al Arida border crossings between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic remained open for the transportation of relief items. In 2014, this has included the importation of items through both trucks and courier services by several United Nations agencies, including WFP and UNHCR.
- It is estimated that other actors transport relatively small amounts of assistance from Lebanon to the Syrian Arab Republic through other channels.

From Iraq

- The United Nations has requested the use of the Al-Yaroubiyeh crossing between Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic for the importation of relief items. An initial approval to transport items through the crossing was received in November 2013, but remains conditional on the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regaining control of the crossing from the Democratic Union Party.

Safety of humanitarian workers

- On 15 May, an anti-aircraft round hit the UNRWA Area Office in Aleppo and fell in front of the main gate. No injuries were reported.
- A national staff member of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and an OPCW-United Nations contractor sustained non-life-threatening injuries when a mortar landed in a residential area in Shalaan district, Damascus, on 6 May. Both the staff member and contractor were hospitalized.
- On 13 May, a mortar shell fell on a Syrian Arab Red Crescent headquarters sub-branch, in eastern Ghouta. One vehicle was damaged but no casualties were reported.
- A total of 28 United Nations national staff members continue to be detained or missing (24 from UNRWA and 2 from UNDP are detained, and 2 UNRWA staff are missing).
- Syrian humanitarian workers face a number of risks, including summary execution, kidnapping, arrest, violence and harassment. The number of humanitarian workers killed since March 2011 is 49: 14 United Nations staff, 34 Syrian Arab Red Crescent staff and volunteers, and 1 staff member of a non-governmental organization.

3. Safe passage of medical personnel and supplies

Attacks on medical facilities during the reporting period

- Syrian forces have systematically attacked the health-care system in opposition-held areas over the past three years, resulting in the deaths of more than 460 health professionals and widespread destruction to hospitals and clinics, according to a report released on 14 May by Physicians for Human Rights.⁶
- Physicians for Human Rights advised that government forces had committed 90 per cent of the confirmed 150 attacks on 124 facilities between March 2011 and March 2014. However, attacks by anti-Government forces are increasing, with 9 of the 10 attacks committed by opposition groups occurring since March 2013.
- From January to end-March 2014, there have been at least 14 attacks on medical infrastructure, and 36 medical workers have reportedly been killed.
- The governorates of Rural Damascus and Aleppo have witnessed the highest numbers of attacks on medical facilities, with 35 attacks each. In Rural Damascus, 78 medical personnel have been killed, with 77 killed in Homs.
- Of the more than 460 civilian health professionals killed across the Syrian Arab Republic, at least 157 were doctors, followed by 94 nurses, 84 medics, and 45 pharmacists. Approximately 41 per cent of the deaths occurred during shelling and bombings, 31 per cent were the result of shootings and 13 per cent were due to torture.

Removal of medicines and medical supplies from convoys

- Approximately 89,652 people were denied medical assistance as a result of medicines and supplies being removed from an inter-agency convoy dispatched to Talbiseh and Ashrafieh on 24 April, as well as the lack of approval for convoys to Madamiyet Elsham, Douma and Adra al-Omalieh and Adra al-Balad in the reporting period.

Medical supplies procedures

- A note verbale (facsimile dated 11 April) was sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stating the list of medical supplies approved for transportation in all United Nations convoys. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the United Nations that the list was approved for immediate implementation, in addition to a mechanism for the supervision, sealing and offloading of the trucks on the understanding that the trucks would not be searched again at checkpoints.
- The new list differs significantly from a more comprehensive list of essential medicines agreed by WHO and the Ministry of Health in January 2014. The latter included lifesaving and paediatric medicines and medical supplies needed for diseases such as cardiovascular conditions and diabetes and for reproductive health, as well as critical hospital equipment and 168 priority

⁶ See <http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/press/press-releases/new-map-shows-government-forces-deliberately-attacking-syrias-medical-system.html>.

medicines needed in the Syrian Arab Republic, including 92 essential medicines. The WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region has written to the Minister of Health, copying in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, urging the Syrian Government to treat all people equally and allow equal access to essential medicines in accordance with the list agreed in January 2014. No reply has so far been received from the Government. The United Nations country team has agreed that inter-agency convoys will not depart until approval for medical items is received in order to ensure principled humanitarian assistance.

- For example, on 24 April, the United Nations hub in Homs, in collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Homs, organized an inter-agency convoy to deliver humanitarian assistance to seven villages in Talbiseh and four villages in Al-Mshrafa. The convoy carried food, hygiene, water and non-food items for at least 47,500 people, as well as medicine. However, as with other inter-agency convoys in Homs, prior to departure, government security officials removed all injectable antibiotics, povidone iodine and chlorhexidine (antiseptics) from basic health kits before dispatch.

Polio vaccination campaign

- As at 28 April 2014, 36 confirmed cases of wild polio were reported in the Syrian Arab Republic, with the majority in Deir-ez-Zor (25) and the rest in Aleppo (5), Idlib (3), Al-Hasakeh (2) and Hama (1). One case was reported in 2014.
- The sixth countrywide vaccination campaign for polio took place from 4 to 8 May 2014. The results of the campaign, including an evaluation of vaccine access to hard-to-reach areas, is currently under way. Figures on the numbers of children reached, including by governorate, are not expected to be available until the third week of May.
- According to the Ministry of Health, areas in 29 districts of 11 governorates were not accessible during the April polio immunization round: Dar'a (4); Homs (1); Al-Hasakeh (2); Damascus (3); Aleppo (1) Quneitra (1); Ar Raqqa (3); Rural Damascus (7); Lattakia (2); Hama (5); and Deir-ez-Zor (1). Based on the recommendations of WHO and UNICEF, the Ministry of Health agreed to extend the response efforts until November 2014 (the phase II outbreak response plan, covering the response in the whole subregion, is under development).
- The fifth round of the response to the polio outbreak in the Syrian Arab Republic of April achieved the immunization of approximately 3 million children across the country. Immunization was carried out in all governorates. Post-campaign monitoring data from all sources have found that over 85 per cent of monitored children were reported to have been immunized in all but one governorate (Rural Damascus).
- In addition to the ongoing polio campaign, a vaccination week was held in the Syrian Arab Republic (26 to 30 April) as part of World Immunization Week. The campaign aimed to provide catch-up routine vaccinations to children and women who had previously missed out. Of the 442,583 children reached, around one third, or 143,684, received the needed vaccinations. Of the 257,381

women reached, around 35 per cent, or 89,238, were eligible for a tetanus vaccination. The governorates of Aleppo, Dar'a, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor had a very poor response to the campaign.

- Measles outbreaks are of increasing concern. From the end of March to 3 May, 965 cases of suspected measles were reported through the early warning and reporting system, including 378 in Ar Raqqah, and 341 in Deir-ez-Zor. In response, the Ministry of Health will implement a measles vaccination campaign immediately after the May polio round. UNICEF will provide the Ministry of Health with 1.3 million doses of monovalent measles vaccine to respond to the outbreak and to sustain the routine vaccination programme until the end of 2014. WHO will support the outbreak response campaign and routine vaccinations by covering part of the operational costs and will also provide technical support through WHO focal points in the field.

4. Administrative hurdles

Clearance procedures for convoys

- On 27 March, the Government communicated a new procedure for unaccompanied truck clearance, whereby trucks will be checked and sealed at warehouses and not searched at checkpoints. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed in writing that instructions regarding the new procedure and expectations for compliance had been communicated to military checkpoints. However, a lack of harmonization and understanding of the procedure by security forces led to significant problems and delays during the first two weeks of May. At least 150 agency trucks have been stopped or turned back at checkpoints, especially at the entrance to Damascus. Security personnel have requested facilitation letters in addition to the ones already required. A technical committee has been created to discuss the issue and seek solutions. It is not clear how long it will take to resolve the problem. The position of the United Nations remains that inspection is to be followed by the sealing of trucks to facilitate passage at checkpoints.

Approval of requests for inter-agency convoys to hard-to-reach areas

Hard-to-reach areas

- In the reporting period, eight requests were made for convoys to hard-to-reach areas: Talbiseh Mashraf (1 convoy/2 destinations), Alfoa'a, Kyfra, Binnish (Idlib) and Adra al-Omaliyeh (2) and Adra al-Balad (2). Six were approved and two were not. Convoys to Adra al-Balad and Adra al-Omaliyeh could not proceed as planned during the period from 6 to 8 May. Two new requests for these locations were submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and approved on 15 May. Plans are for the convoy to proceed on 22 May, with modalities still being discussed.

Besteget areas

- Five inter-agency convoy requests were made to besieged communities: Douma (2), Madamyiet Elsham (2) and Nubul and Zahra (1). Two were unanswered (Madamyiet Elsham); one to Douma was approved on 24 May but,

despite the approval, could not proceed as no agreement was reached on the inclusion of medical supplies. A second request for Douma was made on 13 May and answered verbally on 15 May for a planned departure during the period from 19 to 22 May, with modalities still being discussed. One convoy proceeded to Nubul and Zahra, reaching as well four hard-to-access villages in opposition-held areas.

Empowered interlocutors

- *Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.* A security focal point is now included in the joint working group of the United Nations and the Syrian Government established following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). Meetings are taking place on an almost daily basis between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Humanitarian Coordinator.
- *Opposition.* The opposition is still unable to designate empowered interlocutors. The fragmented nature of the opposition makes it difficult to have a clearly identified interlocutor for armed opposition groups. Ad hoc local engagement is ongoing to negotiate access. Interlocutors vary, depending on the localities for which access is being negotiated.

Visas

- A total of 48 United Nations visa or renewal requests remain pending. The revised visa policy established by the Syrian Government on 4 March continued to be implemented. From 22 April to 15 May, the United Nations submitted 38 new requests for visas or visa renewals. Of these, 11 were approved within the agreed time frame of 15 working days, and 27 remain pending.
- In addition, 21 requests for visas or visa renewals submitted prior to the reporting period remain pending.
- No new requests for visas or visa renewals for international non-governmental organizations were approved during the reporting period, leaving a total of 13 visa requests pending.

Humanitarian hubs

- The Qamishli hub is functional, with international staff of UNICEF, the Department of Safety and Security, WFP, UNHCR, WHO and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs present on a permanent basis.
- The Aleppo hub is still being operationalized and is currently staffed with national staff. Missions to Aleppo meant that international staff were present during the reporting period (UNHCR mission on 26 April; UNICEF mission from 29 April to 3 May; inter-agency mission from 6 to 11 May).

International non-governmental organization partners

- During the reporting period, no new requests were received from international non-governmental organizations for approval to work in the Syrian Arab Republic.

- The number of international non-governmental organizations approved to work in the Syrian Arab Republic has been reduced to 16 (departure of one non-governmental organization at the request of the Government in view of its cross-border activities and a decision by another not to work in the country). An international non-governmental organization requested to cease operations by the Government met with senior representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19 May and agreed to remain in touch and to continue discussion about its role in the Syrian Arab Republic.
- International non-governmental organizations are still not authorized to work directly with national non-governmental organizations and are not allowed to accompany United Nations convoys to the field.

National non-governmental organization partners

- During the reporting period, three national non-governmental organizations were approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to partner with United Nations organizations in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh and Damascus governorates. On 15 May, one national non-governmental organization operating in Ar Raqqah governorate was officially dissolved.
- Some 84 national non-governmental organizations are authorized to operate through 141 of their branches countrywide. There are now 18 national non-governmental organizations allowed to work in Aleppo, 15 in Al-Hasakeh, 8 in Deir-ez-Zor, but only 6 in Rural Damascus, 4 in Dar'a and Idlib, and 3 in Ar Raqqah.

5. Funding

- Around \$695.6 million of funding for the Syrian crisis was registered during the reporting period. Of this amount, \$214.9 million was for activities inside the Syrian Arab Republic and \$480.7 million was to support Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Of the total amount reported for the Syrian Arab Republic during the current period, 76.2 per cent (\$163.7 million) was for activities included in the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. For neighbouring countries, 73.9 per cent (\$355.4 million) of the amount reported was for activities included in the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan.
- As at 19 May, total funding for Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan stood at 24 per cent of that requested (\$6.5 billion requested, \$1.59 billion received).

6. Overview of United Nations humanitarian response

Food assistance

- In the May 2014 dispatch cycle, food deliveries are ongoing at a much slower pace owing to difficulties in the implementation of a new transport facilitation mechanism for sealing trucks. As at 12 May, WFP has only been able to dispatch food rations to assist 942,000 people in 10 of the 14 Syrian

governorates, reaching 22 per cent of the 4.25 million people targeted, in comparison to the 47 per cent achieved by the same time in April.

- WFP received approvals and facilitation letters that enabled the delivery of 775,282 family food rations in April (in support of nearly 3.9 million people) and, at the time of writing, 148,542 family rations in May (in support of 942,710 people).
- UNRWA provided food to 102,476 people and cash assistance to 235,491 people. Of this, assistance to 28,576 people was provided in hard-to-reach areas. UNICEF provided nutritional supplies to 22,650 children under five years of age.

Core relief items and shelter

- UNHCR participated in a United Nations inter-agency mission to Ras al-Ain and distributed core relief items to 9,000 people.
- After 14 months without access, UNHCR finally reached Al-Nabek, located in the Al-Qalamoun district. One of the purposes of the visit was to monitor the distribution of core relief items for 10,000 persons. UNHCR dispatches core relief items to cover the needs of 60,000 beneficiaries weekly; this includes the host community in Al-Nabek and internally displaced persons who fled from Al-Sahel, Meshrefeh and Ja'jeer.
- During the reporting period, IOM delivered non-food items to 27,964 beneficiaries, including 3,702 beneficiaries in hard-to-reach areas.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF provided blankets and quilts to 74,650 people in need in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Homs through its regular programmes.

Health

- WHO delivered a shipment targeting 117,000 beneficiaries in the hard-to-reach area of Ar Raqqah city. Two trucks loaded with 40 metric tons of lifesaving medicines to treat chronic diseases as well as surgical equipment reached Ar Raqqah on 4 May to support the local health authorities and non-governmental organizations, including the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.
- UNICEF provided health-care assistance to 5,000 people in Kafraya Maar Tamsarin in Idlib governorate.
- UNFPA supported 28 mobile clinics, 27 static clinics and 13 medical points operated by its partners in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Deir- ez-Zor, Ar Raqqah and Hama, which have been providing lifesaving reproductive health services to more than 21,500 women.
- Some 1,000 women benefited from specialized reproductive health care through free-of-cost, reproductive health vouchers. In addition, at the request of the Ministry of Health, UNFPA procured and delivered 2,000 anti-D injections to cover the gap in unavailability of the medicine. UNFPA also provided 300 primary health-care centres and three referral hospitals of the Ministry of Health, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Syrian Family

Planning Association with medical equipment, reproductive health supplies, medicines and contraceptives.

- UNFPA assisted clinics and mobile teams of the Syrian Family Planning Association and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Latakia, Tartous, Idlib and Dar'a and provided 2,250 women affected by the crisis with psychosocial support services and psychological first aid services. Similarly, about 105 survivors of gender-based violence, who reported to Syrian Family Planning Association clinics, received medical counselling, community services, and social and legal advice.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, UNICEF delivered 50 metric tons of hypochloride to the Department of Water Resources. Some 20 metric tons of hypochloride was delivered to the Department in Al Raqqah governorate (fully under opposition control) for treatment of the drinking water supply. It is estimated that 1.3 million people in opposition-controlled areas will benefit from safe drinking water as a result of this intervention.
- In response to the water crisis in Aleppo, UNICEF provided a 1,000 kVA generator which was installed by the Water Board in the Tashrin area. As a result, 500,000 people are benefiting from access to clean water.
- Around 30,000 people have had improved access to safe water in Idlib, following the support provided by UNICEF to the water authorities in the form of generators and storage tanks. Two generators (250 kVA, 350 kVA) were delivered to the Water Authority for Harim during the reporting period, while two additional generators of 100 kVA each were delivered to Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, benefiting 20,000 people.

Education

- UNICEF, in partnership with the Directorate of Education and local non-governmental organizations, distributed 22,904 school bags and supplies in Abu Rasin, Al-Hasakeh city, Amouda and Qamishli in the governorate of Al-Hasakeh.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Directorate of Education distributed education supplies for 31,060 students in Harim, Jisr ash-Shugur, Khan Shaykun and Ma'arrat al-Nu'man in the governorate of Idlib.

Palestine refugees

- UNRWA provided food to 102,476 people and cash assistance to 235,491, including to 28,576 people in hard-to-reach areas.
- In addition, UNRWA provided education to 40,589 students, 77,357 health-care consultations and non-food items (mattresses and blankets) to 9,830 people.

Agriculture

- FAO provided 58,163 beneficiaries with agricultural assistance: 48,734 people in Aleppo received wheat bran, barley and wheat seeds; 875 people in Idlib received animal feed; and 8,554 people in Rural Damascus received laying hens and poultry feed.

Protection and community services

- UNHCR continued to extend support through six offices, 11 community centres, partner organizations and outreach volunteers. These centres offer a range of social services to civilians affected by the conflict, including vocational and skills training, legal counselling, social and recreational activities, and health awareness.
- Protection agencies continued the provision of capacity-building on prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence. Between 22 and 24 April 2014, 33 staff of five national and international non-governmental organizations present in six governorates were trained. UNHCR also provided support for a workshop on child protection and psychosocial support held from 11 to 15 May, aimed at strengthening the response to protection concerns identified during recreational and other activities with children.